

Central Southern



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It was the best of times, it was . . . well . . . the best of times! Autumn 2000 was packed with fine birding in our Region, combining excellent numbers of regular migrants and a stellar collection of rarities. At least eight potential first, second, or third state records thrilled observers. Though most families were well-represented this fall, diversity of flycatchers was particularly impressive, with 18 species recorded just in the southern tier of states. From birders in the field to banding stations to offshore researchers, we enjoyed a season of plenty.

This was in the face of marked drought through most of the period, at levels not previously experienced by many localities. Birder-friendly frontal systems along the coast occurred 15 and 25–27 September and 6–7 October. Our area was not significantly affected by tropical storms this year.

Though the Migration over the Gulf Project continued at many offshore platforms, I received data only from an observer stationed off the Alabama coast. Reports of significant rarities not accompanied by convincing

documentation have been excluded, excepting processed specimens.

On a personal note, after 11 years of writing this report it is time to pass the baton. I deeply appreciate the many observers and subregional editors who devoted time to record submission. Thank you for your insights, and for your patience with my nagging requests for rarity documentation. Those involved made this fascinating job so much easier by their efforts.

Abbreviations: b. (banded); F.W.B.S.F. (Fort Walton Beach spray field, *Okaloosa*, FL); M.L. (Millwood Lake, sw. AR); Noxubee (Noxubee N.W.R., e.-cen. MS); MP 252 (platform 60 mi s. of Ft. Morgan Peninsula, *Baldwin*, AL); T.E.C. (The Earth Complex, a.k.a. Ensley Bottoms, *Shelby*, TN); W.P. (Western Panhandle [*Escambia*, *Santa Rosa*, and *Okaloosa*], FL); W.T.F. (Woerner Turf Farm, *Lowndes*, AL). States are often identified only with the initial use of a place name.

Loons Through Storks

Rare Red-throated Loons were spotted four times 4–26 Nov in *Henry*, TN (JRW, m.ob.). Even more unusual, though increasing in the e. portion of the Region, is Pacific Loon. Three sightings of at least 2 birds occurred at Pace Pt.,

Henry, TN, 4–18 Nov (JRW), and 2 were noted 25 Nov at Guntersville, *Marshall*, AL (SWM). An exceptional number of Horned Grebes was recorded 26 Nov, when 850+ were at Pace Pt (JRW). Eared Grebes in unusual locales included *Webster*, MS, 12 Sep (TLS), 2 birds 14 Sep+ at F.W.B.S.F. (RAD, m.ob.), 7 Nov in *DeKalb*, TN (SJS), 23 Nov in *Shelby*, TN (JRW, ph.), and 25 Nov at Pace Pt. (JRW).

Cory's Shearwaters were recorded in amazing numbers this autumn at MP 252 (BMM, some ph., @). The most conservative count was 289 birds, but actual numbers may have exceeded 440 individuals, despite reports from only one of the two observers! These were recorded on 17 days 13 Sep–25 Oct, with peak tallies 16 Oct of 68+ and 20 Oct of 65+ Alabama previously had only 15 accepted Cory's records. One rare Greater Shearwater was spotted 20 Oct at MP 252 (BMM, ph.) **Audubon's Shearwaters**, documented seven times previously in Alabama, were noted 14 Sep (2 birds) and 16 Oct at MP 252 (BMM, @) Masked Booby is rare but regular offshore; singles were at MP 252 on 24–26 Sep and 11 Oct (BMM). More unusual was an adult Masked 8 Sep along the *Santa Rosa* shore (LRD, RAD), only the 2nd W.P. sighting for September.

Good inland counts of American White Pelicans included 2100 in *Bossier*, LA, 7 Oct (CL, JT), 800 in *Lake*, TN, 26 Oct (WGC, KL), and 1500 birds 16–17 Nov at Baton Rouge (JPK). Two of these white giants were unexpected 19 Nov in *Elmore*, AL (PJ, LFG). Only casual inland in Alabama, ≤4 Brown Pelicans were at W.F. George Dam, *Henry*, 1 Jul–24 Nov (JW et al.); an individual 10–11 Nov at M.L. (CM et al., ph.) was unexpected. Two **Neotropical Cormorants** were in *Lafayette* 8 Aug (MD), furnishing a 9th Arkansas record. An estimate of 5000+ Double-crested Cormorants 10 Oct at Reelfoot L., *Lake*, TN (KL), was significant for a non-coastal locale. Of several Anhinga reports, most notable were ≤4 birds 9 Aug–14 Oct at Noxubee (TLS, m.ob.), one 3 Sep in *DeKalb*, AL (GW), and another 30 Sep in *Rutherford*, TN (JSD). Estimates of 1000 Great Egrets and 2500 Snowy Egrets 5 Aug in *Vermilion*, LA (JPK et al.) were impressive. Small numbers of Tricolored Herons usually occur inland each fall; five reports were submitted of 7 birds 4 Aug–14 Sep in e. Arkansas (KN, LN, JC), Noxubee (TLS), and T.E.C. (JRW). Huge numbers of Cattle Egrets were in *Caddo*, LA, with 30,000 estimated 11 Sep (CL); a late bird was in *White*, AR, 24 Nov (KN, LN).

Noteworthy reports of Glossy Ibis included at least one in *Hancock*, MS, 22–29 Oct (J&DB, @) and 2 birds 26–27 Aug in *White*, AR (KN,

SA

"A narrow Fellow in the Grass..."
— Emily Dickinson

Eastern Arkansas gave southern Louisiana stiff competition this season in the now-annual "Rice Field Rail Rally." Several dedicated field stompers (JRW, KN, LN, MR, KC et al.) kept pace with the combines this October in *Crittenden*, producing amazing numbers of small rallids. Yellow Rail was the most-sought prize for many; at least 5 of these reclusive beasts were flushed 7–16 Oct. Also ranking high on want lists, and with only a few Arkansas records, 11 **Black Rails** scurried in front of the marching machines during this period. Virginia Rails were found in abundance, tabulated at 114 in several trips. Astonishing numbers of Soras were flushed, with a two-week tally beginning 7 Oct of nearly 1700; more than 520 Soras were noted 10 Oct, over 200 in a single field! The secret, according to the "O' Coot" (JRW): "The wetter the wheels on the combine the more rails you will see."

LN). A concentration of 2500 White-faced Ibis, 160 Roseate Spoonbills, and 1155 Wood Storks 5 Aug in *Vermilion* (JPK, KF) must have been jaw-dropping. I received four reports of 7 White-faced Ibis, rare outside Louisiana, 26 Aug–22 Oct in *White* (KN, LN), *Ashley* (JC), and *Clark* (DH, GG), AR; one at Noxubee 19 Sep (TLS, @) furnished only the 2nd local record. An unidentified *Plegadis* ibis was rare 2 Sep in *Limestone*, AL (JMH, BH). Only the 17th for Alabama, a Roseate Spoonbill was a surprise 9 Aug+ in *Montgomery* (CTS, m.ob., @). An increase in dispersing Wood Storks was noted in w. Tennessee, where the species is rare; high counts there were 108 at T.E.C. 6 Aug (JRW) and 125+ birds at various locations along the Mississippi R. 3 Sep (JRW). A gathering of 250 storks was notable 18 Aug in *Ashley*, AR (JC). Nine birds were rare for Alabama's Mountain Region 18 Aug (W&LB).

Waterfowl Through Cranes

More than 400 Greater White-fronted Geese were unusually abundant 6 Nov in *Clark*, AR (DnH, DH); ≤3 were rare 17–29 Nov at F.W.B.S.F. (DMW, RAD, LRD et al.). Noteworthy reports of the increasing Ross's Goose included singles 26 Nov in *Henry*, TN (JRW, MCT) and at Noxubee (JB, TLS, MHS).

One rare Tundra Swan was reported this fall, an ad. in *Cleburne*, AR, 22–25 Nov (KN, LN, MD). A tally of 164 Redheads 24 Nov in *Henry* (GRB, EH) established a new maximum for Alabama's Inland Coastal Plain. Rare inland scoter sightings included a White-winged 5 Nov in *Washington*, AR (MM), a Surf and a White-winged 12 Nov in *Prairie*, AR (KN, LN, ph.), a Surf and a Black 16–18 Nov in *Oktibbeha*, MS (TLS, MHS), and 3 White-wingeds 25 Nov on L. Pontchartrain, LA (BMM). Locally unprecedented was a Long-tailed Duck 18–24 Nov in *Putnam*, TN (SJS et al.). A high count of 9416 Ruddy Ducks was recorded 12 Nov in *Caddo* (CL, TD, LR).

Late Ospreys were noted 23 Nov in *Oktibbeha* (TLS, MHS) and 25 Nov in *Pulaski*, AR (RHD). Surveying 4 Aug along the Pearl R. between Mississippi and Louisiana resulted in an excellent tally of 145 Swallow-tailed Kites (JOC, PS). Scarce in se. Louisiana, White-tailed Kites were in *Plaquemines* (DPM, BMM, RDP) and New Orleans (JOC, TDC) 26 Nov. The Northern Harrier 9 Aug in *Lauderdale* (PDK) set a new arrival date for Alabama's Tennessee Valley. A rare dark-morph Rough-legged Hawk was spotted 21 Nov in *Lake*, TN (JRW). Two scarce Golden Eagles returned to Pace Pt. 4 Nov (JRW, m.ob.), and another appeared 9 Nov in *Bossier*, LA (PMD). Ahead of schedule, a Merlin was in *Lake*, TN, 20 Aug (KL).

The 12th for the W.P., a Black Rail was seen 27 Oct at F.W.B.S.F. (RAD, EC). A rare King Rail was found in *Ashley*, AR, 28 Sep (JC), and 2 were unusual 30 Sep in *Jefferson*, AL (SSH, DPG). Combine-riding in *Red River* rice fields 27 Sep produced 18 Virginia Rails and 202 Soras (CL, BL), the latter a maximum for n. Louisiana. Startling for Alabama's Mountain Region, and unprecedented in the state, a **Limpkin** was a crowd-pleaser in *Cullman* 30 Sep–23 Nov (GV, MV, m.ob., LN, SWM, ph., @). Six Sandhill Cranes were rare for the W.P. 21 Nov in *Santa Rosa* (EL).

Shorebirds

Furnishing a local maximum, 6 Black-bellied Plovers were noted at W.T.F. 10 Sep (LFG et al.). A fall high count on Alabama's Gulf Coast, 12 American Golden-Plovers were in *Baldwin* 9 Sep (PB, m.ob.). Scarce inland Piping Plovers included 5 in e. Arkansas (KN, LN) and w. Tennessee (JRW, WGC et al.) 1 Aug–9 Sep. An American Oystercatcher was locally rare 26 Oct at Venice, *Plaquemines*, LA (CGB, MHSa). A handful of rare far-inland American Avocet sightings occurred 16 Sep+ in four states. Rare inland in Alabama, a Willet was at W.T.F. 4–10 Sep (LFG et al.). Seventeen Upland Sandpipers at W.T.F. set a non-coastal fall maximum for

Alabama 4 Aug (TAP); the congregation of 49 Uplands 12 Aug in *White*, AR (KN, LN) was notable. Only occasional away from the gulf, a Whimbrel was in *Shelby*, TN, 6 Aug (JRW). The Long-billed Curlew is casual in n. Mississippi, so one in *Tate* 26–28 Oct (QB&CG) was a surprise. Inland Marbled Godwits are found only occasionally. One appeared in *Prairie*, AR, 5 Aug (KN, LN, ph.), up to 3 were in *White*, AR, 6–23 Aug (KN, LN, ph.), and another Marbled was in *Tallahatchie*, MS, 13 Aug (GCK).

Unusual inland, 7 Ruddy Turnstones were discovered 3 Aug+ at five sites in Tennessee, Arkansas, and Alabama. Even more noteworthy away from the coast is the Red Knot; 13 on 27 Aug were surprising in *Lake*, TN (JRW, SWM), and another was photographed 9 Sep in *Prairie*, AR (KN, LN). A flock of 20 Sanderlings was notable far inland 16 Sep in *Lafayette*, MS (WMD). Fall records of White-rumped Sandpiper, mainly an Atlantic migrant, are unusual. I received reports of six sightings of 16 individuals 5 Aug–7 Oct from T.E.C. (JRW), *Prairie*, AR (KN, LN et al.), F.W.B.S.F. (PCT, BT et al.), and *Baldwin* (PCT, m.ob.); peak count was of 7 White-rumped 10 Sep at W.T.F. (LFG et al.). Of several Baird's Sandpiper reports, most significant was one in *Lauderdale* 11–12 Nov (PDK, TMH), furnishing a new inland Alabama departure date. A gathering of 200 Stilt Sandpipers 19 Aug in *Ashley*, AR (JC) was noteworthy.

Excellent numbers of Buff-breasted Sandpipers were recorded again this autumn. Eighty were in *White*, AR, 12 Aug (KN, LN), 172 were counted 9 Sep in *Baldwin* (PB, m.ob.), and 56 were in *Dyer*, TN, 10 Sep (WGC). Ten Buff-breasteds in *Lauderdale* 2 Sep (GNP, MA) established a new high count for Alabama's Tennessee Valley, and 30+ birds 10 Sep at W.T.F. (LFG et al.) set a maximum for inland Alabama. Always a thrill, a **Ruff** appeared briefly at W.T.F. 6 Aug (LFG, @), furnishing a 5th Alabama record. Early Common Snipe were in *White*, AR, 16 Aug (KN, LN), *Benton*, AR, 18 Aug (MM), and *Caddo* 27 Aug (JT, JnT). Two Wilson's Phalaropes were locally rare at Noxubee 5 Sep (TLS); good counts were of 90 birds 5 Aug in *Cameron*, LA (JPK, KF) and 14 Wilson's 12 Sep in *Lonoke*, AR (LY, SM). Rare but regular in the Mississippi Valley, Red-necked Phalaropes were found 5 Aug at T.E.C. (JRW), 10–21 Sep in *Ashley*, AR (JC), and 16 Sep in *Lonoke*, AR (KN, LN). Far more scarce, particularly on land, is the Red Phalarope. One of these stocky spinners was discovered 19 Aug at T.E.C. (JRW, ph.); another was the 21st for Alabama 29 Oct at Guntersville (SWM).

Jaegers Through Hummingbirds

Expected offshore in small numbers, 4–5 Pomarine Jaegers were at MP 252 on 3 Sep and 15–20 Oct (BMM). Rare Parasitic Jaegers were in the mouth of Mobile Bay, AL, 26 Sep (GDJ, DGJ), and 16 Oct at MP 252 (BMM). Tennessee's 3rd **Long-tailed Jaeger** appeared 27 Aug at Island No. 13, *Lake* (JRW, SWM, @). Two Long-taileds provided Mississippi with an exciting first record 9–10 Sep at Enid L., *Yalobusha* (GCK, SK, m.ob., ph. GCK, JRW, @) An early Franklin's Gull was at Cross L., *Caddo* 23 Sep (CL); a count of 209 birds at that site 5 Nov (CL) was notable. The Franklin's at F.W.B.S.F. 22–29 Nov (DMW et al) was rare so far east. Rare but regular inland, 4 Laughing Gulls were at three Arkansas sites 10 Sep+ (KN, LN, LY, SM). A rare California Gull was in *Cameron* 20–27 Oct (DLD, SWC, * Louisiana State University).

Expected now in much of the Region, rare Lesser Black-backed Gulls were noted 20–21 Oct in *Lafayette*, MS (WMD, GCK, @) and 12 Nov+ at Pace Pt. (JRW). In *Cameron*, where the species is more frequent, a peak of 8 birds was noted 20 Oct (DLD, SWC). Scarce Great Black-backed Gulls were at several locations this autumn. One was in *Lafourche*, LA, as early as 30 Sep (PAW, BMM, CS, @), another was in *Harrison*, MS, 4–9 Nov (J&DB, TG, ph., @), and an adult was at Pace Pt. 25 Nov (MAG). When searching for the elusive Sabine's Gull in our Region, M.L. is the place to try; single individuals appeared there again 16 & 27 Sep (CM). Alabama's 4th **Sabine's Gull** was on Dauphin I., *Mobile*, 28 Oct (RRR, @) With no prior inland Louisiana records, a Black-legged Kittiwake was a thrill 5 & 11 Nov at Cross L. (CL, ph., @).

Uncommon offshore, Bridled Terns were noted 27 Aug and 13 Sep at MP 252 (BMM); more unusual was a Sooty Tern at the platform 13 Sep (BMM). Casual in Arkansas, a **White-winged Dove** was spotted 19 Aug in *Desha* (KN, LN); 12 were notable at Ft. Morgan, *Baldwin*, 30 Oct (BS). The Common Ground-Dove 24 Nov in *Carroll*, TN (MCT) was rare so far north. An early Burrowing Owl, the 17th for Alabama, was in *Baldwin* 5 Aug (DM, @); another was unexpected inland in *Washington*, MS, 18 Nov (CSm, GCK, SK, @) Two late Common Nighthawks were calling 28 Nov in *Lincoln*, LA (TDO). More than 2000 Chimney Swifts 12 Oct in *Caddo* (CL, PD) must have been impressive.

Casual in Arkansas and the Region, a **Green Violet-ear** graced *Benton* 21–22 Aug (J&FB, J&SS, JS, ph. TJ, @). An early Buff-bellied Hummingbird returned 12 Sep to Cantonment, *Escambia*, FL (BK, FB) for the

6th year; another was unusual in *LaSalle*, LA, 15 Sep (L&BW, ph.). Rare Calliope Hummingbirds returned to *Iberville*, LA, 26 Oct+ (DLD, SWC, JVR, ph. MAS). A **Calliope Hummingbird** was far to the ne. in *Putnam* late Oct–28 Nov (CAS, B&HB, b., ph., @), representing the 2nd occurrence for Tennessee. Alabama's 9th and 10th Calliopes appeared in *Jefferson* 19 Nov+ (RRS, MBS, SA, m.ob., b., ph., @) and in Montgomery 21 Nov (FB, DS, b., ph., @). An ad. **Broad-tailed Hummingbird** 29 Nov in Mobile (FB, RRS, MBS, DB, b., ph., @) established the 5th record for Alabama. Of several Rufous Hummingbird reports, most unusual were singles in *Butler*, AL, as early as 2 Aug (FB, CK, BB), and another 15 Nov in *Rutherford*, TN (CAS, b.). An Allen's Hummingbird, the 15th for Alabama, was in *Dale* 16 Nov (FB, GS, b., ph., @).

Tyrant Flycatchers Through Pipits

Three rare-but-regular Olive-sided Flycatchers were noted in Alabama 18 Sep–5 Oct (DJS, PN, BS, CTS). Late Yellow-bellied Flycatchers included singles 14 Oct in *Forrest*, MS (SW), 17 Oct in Nashville (JKS), and 29 Oct in *Cameron* (CL, JoB, DPM, RDP, m.ob.). Notably late was a calling Acadian Flycatcher through 7 Nov in *Iberville* (JVR). Rarely identified, vocalizing Alder and Willow Flycatchers were in *Caddo* 20 Aug and 12 Aug, respectively (both CL). First for Alabama's Inland Coastal Plain, and only the 12th identified by voice in the state, a Willow was in Montgomery 12 Sep (LFG, @). Alabama's 3rd **Say's Phoebe** was a surprise at Ft. Morgan 15 Oct (MAA, TAB, @). Rare and irregular in Alabama, a Vermilion Flycatcher was enjoyed 14 Oct+ near Mobile (KN, m.ob., ph.); more often seen at F.W.B.S.F., 3 Vermilions were noted 10 Oct–29 Nov (RAD, BBU, DMW, m.ob.). Ash-throated Flycatchers were rare finds 11 Sep (LF) and 27 Oct–25 Nov (EC, RAD, PCT, BT) at F.W.B.S.F., 28 Oct at Ft. Morgan (BS, DRC), and 29 Oct at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, FL (RAD).

For at least a 2nd Alabama occurrence, a **Brown-crested Flycatcher** brought many smiles 13 Oct at Dauphin I. (GDJ, DGJ, LRD, RAD, m.ob., v.t. GDJ, ph. JRW, @). Another Brown-crested was a rare find 7 Nov at Venice (JH, ph., @). The **Great Kiskadee** present since 1999 at Venice was noted again 3 Sep (DLD, SWC) and 7 Nov (JH, ph.). A **Cassin's Kingbird** was a shocker 17 Oct at F.W.B.S.F. (LF, DMW, LRD, m.ob., @), furnishing a 2nd W.P. and 3rd Florida record. The Gray Kingbird 18 Oct in *Santa Rosa*, FL (M&RR) was late. Rare so far east, a pair of Scissor-tailed Flycatchers with 4 fledged young was in

Franklin, TN, 6–7 Aug (JBr, JLI). Aggregations totaling 167 Scissor-taileds set a new Louisiana high count in *Caddo* and *Bossier* 7 Oct (CL).

Single **Bell's Vireos** 15 Sep at Gulf Breeze (RAD) and 16 Sep at Ft. Pickens, *Escambia* (LRD, RAD) provided the 7th and 8th WP records; another 12 Aug in *Iberville* (JVR) was rare and early. Warbling Vireos are rare in Alabama; singles were noted 2 Sep in Birmingham (SWM), 17 Sep in *Shelby* (GDJ, DGJ), 27 Sep at Ft. Morgan (GDJ, DGJ), and 12 Oct in *Lowndes* (LFG). Late Philadelphia Vireos included 3 in *Limestone*, AL, 22 Oct (DRC, RC), one in *Washington*, AR, 2 Nov (MM), and 2 in *Cameron* 9 Nov (JH, JFH). Two Winter Wrens 16 Sep in *Conway*, AR (D&SP) were ahead of the pack, as was a Sedge Wren the same day in *Oktibbeha* (L&EC). A push of 37 Golden-crowned Kinglets was noted 2 Nov in *Washington*, AR (MM). Two Ruby-crowned Kinglets in *Cameron* 16 Sep (SWC) were early. A straggling Gray-cheeked Thrush was spotted in *Putnam* 5 Nov (SF, IC). Rarely detected, a Sprague's Pipit was in *Tunica*, MS, 23 Nov (JRW).

Wood-Warblers Through Finches

Setting a local arrival date, a Golden-winged Warbler was in *Madison*, AL, 13 Aug (DRC, RC); one in *Cameron* 29 Oct (DLD, SWC) was tardy. Always exciting, the recessive-hybrid Lawrence's Warbler was observed 8 Sep at Nashville (EO). Many reports arrived of lingering Tennessee Warblers. In *Plaquemines* 47 birds were surprising 7 Nov (JH); 2 Tennessees were in *Okaloosa*, FL, 21 Nov (KM), 2 were spotted in New Orleans 22 Nov (GO), and one set a late date for Alabama's Tennessee Valley 28 Nov in *Lauderdale* (TMH). Early Orange-crowned Warblers, providing new local arrival dates, were in *Colbert*, AL, 12 Sep (DJS) and *Putnam* 16 Sep (BHS). Excellent numbers of Nashville Warblers were recorded; in *Caddo* 22 birds were extraordinary 30 Sep (CL, JT). A lingering Northern Parula was in *Washington*, AR, 11 Nov (MM). The Chestnut-sided Warbler 2 Aug in *Gibson*, TN (MAG) was exceptionally early and another 24 Aug in *Iberville* (DLD) was also ahead of schedule, a late bird was in *Oktibbeha* 2 Nov (TLS). Early Magnolia Warblers included individuals 2 Aug in *Gibson*, TN (MAG) and 13 Aug in New Orleans (JOC, CR).

An eastern migrant, particularly in fall, Cape May Warbler is rare in most areas; a male was discovered at the Region's nw. corner in *Washington*, AR, 23 Sep (DHJ, JH, MM). Of several reports of Black-throated Blue Warbler, a more-expected eastern transient,

most notable were males 1 Oct in *Caddo* (CL, C&SM), 12–15 Oct in *Craighead*, AR (SK, m.ob.), and as late as 7 Nov in *Plaquemines* (JH). An **Audubon's Warbler** furnished the 2nd W.P. record 18 Oct at F.W.B.S.F. (RAD). Two Yellow-throated Warblers in *Limestone*, AL, 22 Oct (DRC, RC) were tardy, as were Prairie Warblers 18 Nov in *Putnam* (BHS, SJS) and 26 Nov at Venice (DPM). Occasional this far w. in autumn, a Blackpoll Warbler was unexpected 27 Sep at MP 252 (BMM). Locally late was a Swainson's Warbler 2 Sep in *Madison*, AL (DRC, RC). The Ovenbird 15 Aug at Noxubee (TLS) was early. Of several reports of the skulking Mourning Warbler, most noteworthy was one in Nashville 11 Aug (TJW), providing a new arrival date for Tennessee.

Unprecedented numbers of Wilson's Warblers flooded the s. part of the Region beginning 6 Sep. Eight birds at Dauphin I. and Ft. Morgan 27 Sep (GDJ, DGJ) set a new Alabama maximum; H.B.S.G. banded 37 at Ft. Morgan in just two weeks of Oct. To the w. in Louisiana, Muth reported over 65 this fall, with a peak of 30 in *Plaquemines* 26 Nov (DPM, BMM, RDP). Sixty Canada Warblers and 85 Yellow-breasted Chats were surprisingly numerous 4 Sep in *Cameron* (CW). Tardy Summer Tanagers were in *Washington*, AR, 2 Nov (MM), *Caddo* 12 Nov (JT), and *Lafayette*, LA, 30 Nov (BF). A rare Western Tanager was discovered 21 Nov in Baton Rouge (CF, JL, @).

Four reports of 5 rare Spotted Towhees came from *Washington*, AR, 14 Oct–11 Nov (MM et al.). Excellent numbers of Clay-colored Sparrows were recorded in several states beginning 16 Sep. An exciting first for Florida, a **Brewer's Sparrow** was studied carefully 22 Oct at Gulf Breeze (RAD, LRD, @). A whopping 52 Le Conte's Sparrows 26 Nov in New Orleans (JOC, TDC) made a great day. Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows are rare inland. One was in *Washington*, AR, 21 Oct (MM), another provided Alabama's 7th non-coastal record 22 Oct–5 Nov at W.T.F. (PJ, m.ob.), and one was discovered 28 Oct in *Cleburne*, AR (RHD et al.); surprising were 8 in *White*, AR, 5 Nov (KN, LN). Good numbers of Lincoln's Sparrows were noted, with impressive peaks of 30+ birds 9 Oct at Baton Rouge (CJW) and 26 in *Benton*, AR, 15 Oct (MM). The Swamp Sparrow 16 Sep in *Okaloosa* (PaB) was the first for the W.P. in Sep. Casual in Mississippi, a **Harris's Sparrow** was in *Attala* 27–29 Nov (FH, JSa, TLS, @). Alabama's 12th Harris's was a treat 26 Nov+ in *Lauderdale* (GNP, MA, PDK, m.ob., ph. SWM, @). An early White-crowned

Sparrow was in *Oktibbeha* 7 Oct (TLS, MHS). A Lapland Longspur in *Cameron* 30 Oct (TDO, MH) was early; 40 were unusual at W.T.F. 25 Nov (FB, PB).

Black-headed Grosbeak is occasional in Alabama, so one in *Dale* 23 Sep (K&MG) was a surprise; another in Gulf Breeze 20–25 Nov (C&BK, RAD, LRD, v.t. BA) was rare. Casual in Louisiana, a **Lazuli Bunting** was described from *Plaquemines* 3 Nov (DPM et al., vt., @). An estimate of 1000+ Indigo Buntings was notable 9 Oct in Baton Rouge (CW). Behind schedule, a Painted Bunting was in Gulf Breeze 30 Nov (RAD). Rare Yellow-headed Blackbirds appeared 26 Aug at MP 252 (BMM), an early Alabama record, and 20 Oct in *Cameron* (SWC, DLD). An early Brewer's Blackbird was at F.W.B.S.F. 16 Sep (DMW). Of uncertain status in Florida, 2 imm. male **Bullock's Orioles** were at a feeder in Gulf Breeze 22–30 Nov (C&BK, RAD, LRD, vt., @). The Pine Siskin 21 Sep in *Washington*, AR (MM) was ahead of the game, as was an American Goldfinch 13 Aug in *Iberville* (JVR).

Cited observers (subregional editors in boldface):

Sue Adams, Moez Ali, Mary A. Anderson, Brooks Atherton, Pat Baker (PaB), Peggy Baker, Winston & Linda Baker, Fred Bassett, Giff R. Beaton, Jones Beck (JoB), Jamen Berk, Jerry & Debbie Bird, Betty Black, Joan & Floyd Bodkin, Christopher G. Brantley, Betty & Harold Bright, Thomas A. Brindley, John Bruner (JBr), Donna Bullard, Bill Burke (BBu), Kevin Calhoun, Joe Cambre, Steven W. Cardiff, Ed Case, **Phillip D. Casteel (middle Tennessee)**, Ivan Cordrey, J.O. Coulson, T.D. Coulson, W. Glen Criswell, Lawrence & Elsie Croft, Dean R. Cutten, Raelene Cutten, W. Marvin Davis, Terry Davis, Jay S. Degrosselier, Paul M. Dickson, Mike Dillon, Donna L. Dittmann, Robert H. Doster, Temple Douglas (TDo), Lucy R. Duncan, **Robert A. Duncan (nw. Florida)**, Karen Fay, Lenny Fennimore, C. Foil, Bill Fontenot, Susan Ford, Tish Galbraith, Larry F. Gardella, David P. George, Gail Golden, Q.B. & Charlotte Gray, Mark A. Greene, Kelly & Mark Gregory, Thomas M. Haggerty, Marty Haraway, John Harbison, Dolores Harrington, Don Harrington (DnH), Bert Harris, J. Milton Harris, Frances Henne, James F. Holmes, Jim Holmes, Earl Horn, Sharon S. Hudgins, Hummer/Bird Study Group, Jerry L. Ingles, Debra G. Jackson, **Greg D. Jackson (Alabama)**, Douglas H. James, Pat Johnson, Taos Jones, Charles & Betty Kahn, Bev Kennedy, Sandra Key, Paul D. Kittle, **Joseph P. Kleiman (Louisiana)**, Gene C. Knight, Shannon Knight, Joan LeBlanc, Ken

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